

time in the tree over which the grapevine grew.— ISAAC G. ROBERTS, *West Chester, Pa.*

Addendum.— Referring to specimens of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), mentioned in lines 27 and 28, there should have been, on page 105 of this volume of 'The Auk,' a footnote as follows: ² Proc. Portland Society Natural History, April, 1882.— N. C. B.

The Rock Wren at National, Iowa.— A single individual of this species (*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*) was observed on the morning of September 27, 1914, and was still here the next day. It was found in a wet ravine about the roots and thick sprouts of willow trees that grow about thirty feet from my bird blind. It had a favorite spot where in full view it would sit many minutes preening itself. While it was under observation a House Wren and English Sparrows were present with which it could be compared. Its head was not so slim as that of the House Wren, but seemed fuller or rounder, suggesting more the head of the Warbling Vireo, which was emphasized by its ashy color, while the very light breast rendered it conspicuous against the dark bark of the willows. It cocked its tail and scolded in true wren fashion.

The bird could not be taken. It was watched on both days as long as I could spare the time, and the description of it, here given, was written down while the bird was present. Rump and tail a dull rufous, the color being brighter on the rump; head and nape ashy, with a brownish wash, there being a gradual blending of this ashy with rufous along the back until the brighter rufous of rump is reached; a tinge of rufous on the tertials, the rest of the wings dark gray with darker bars; tail, rump, and back barred; no bars nor stripes could be detected on nape, head or under parts except tail; no light or white stripe over the eye; throat and breast a grayish white, somewhat lighter than corresponding parts of the *Passer domesticus*. The most strikingly marked portion was the under part of the tail, buffy white in color with conspicuous lateral bars of dark brown or black. A subterminal band of black on the tail is mentioned, also figured, in books of Mrs. Bailey, and of Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, also in 'The Birds of Washington.' I failed to see this though it might have been possible had I been on the lookout for it, as I was for the stripe over the eye. In the hand, traces of such a streak probably could have been found. The bird was studied from thirty to thirty-five feet away and I used both 8-power and 5½-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars, the latter being better for near distances.

Our place is six miles from the Mississippi River. This brings the occurrence of the species very near to the eastern limit of Iowa; and it makes the 148th species identified on our place with four or five more just beyond our borders.— ALTHEA R. SHERMAN, *National, Iowa.*

Corthylio — A Valid Genus for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet.— The genus *Regulus* as currently recognized comprises some eighteen forms

representing several specific types. These fall into two groups, the larger of which, including the Gold-crests and Fire-crests is Holarctic in distribution, the other containing the Ruby-crowned Kinglets only (a continental species of three races and a closely allied island species) being strictly Nearctic.

As long ago as 1850 Cabanis referred *Regulus calendula* to his genus *Phyllobasileus*, which included small Willow-Wren-like forms now included in *Reguloides*. Three years later, however, concluding that *calendula* was more nearly related to true *Regulus* yet generically distinct he proposed for it the name of *Corthylio*.

As is well known the type of *Regulus* (*R. regulus*) and its immediate allies differ from *R. calendula* (and from all other birds as well) in the presence of a single flat feather overlying each nostril. This represents the several much smaller and more bristly antrorse plumules of the Ruby-crown. The latter is further distinguished by longer tarsi, a larger and wider bill, absence of stripes on the head and uniform olive-green crown of the female.

In spite of these differences, however, it has not seemed necessary to separate the Ruby-crown from *Regulus*, and Cabanis's genus has been almost universally ignored. The discovery of an additional character now renders necessary, in my opinion, the recognition of *Corthylio*.

While recently identifying some bird remains from the crop of a Sharp-shinned Hawk, I was struck by the peculiar form of the hind-toe of a foot which proved to be that of a Golden-crowned Kinglet. The pad forming the sole of the toe for its basal half is approximately obovate (broader terminally than basally), abruptly contracted distally, the sub-truncate end strongly contrasting with the narrow terminal half of the toe. This conspicuous pad is shorter than the rest of the toe beyond it (excluding the claw) and reticulated into about a dozen polygonal sections. No other birds examined (including Mniotiltidæ, Sylviidæ, Fringillidæ, Paridæ and Vireonidæ) at all closely approach the species of true *Regulus* in these peculiar features, in which they seem to be as unique as in the supranasal plumule.

In the ordinary song-bird foot the sub-basal pad of the hallux is tapering or gradually rounded terminally, where it is usually not very strongly defined, longer than the distal portion of the toe, its superficial divisions minute and very numerous. *Reguloides superciliosus* is normal in these respects, and *Regulus calendula* exhibits but a slight approach to true *Regulus* in the form of the pad, which is longer than the rest of the toe, the reticulations being larger than usual but smaller than in true *Regulus*.

If the validity of *Corthylio* as a genus is conceded the names of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets will stand as below. The Guadalupe form is in my opinion (based on examination of an excellent series) specifically distinct. Neither in coloration (at least in fresh plumage), in the relation of bill and tarsal length to that of the wing, nor in the mutual proportions of the ninth and tenth primaries, is there any evidence of intergradation with the continental forms. "*Regulus cuvieri*" is referable to true *Regulus*.

- Corthylia calendula calendula* (Linnæus).
 “ “ *cinereus* (Grinnell).
 “ “ *grinnelli* (Palmer).
 “ *obscurus* (Ridgway).

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A Note on the Migration at Sea of Shore Birds and Swallows.—

The following notes, made during the cruise of the whaler *Daisy* in 1912, throw a little light on the oceanic routes sometimes followed by migrating shore birds and swallows. It is quite probable that the recorded positions, which lie well to the eastward of Bermuda, are not in the normal tracks of the North American species mentioned. The month of August, 1912, was, however, prevailing calm in the western temperate Atlantic, and the possibility of migrants having been blown out of their courses would seem to be limited to the effects of local storms.

Ereunetes pusillus. On August 16, in lat. 31° 22' N., long. 60° 14' W. a sandpiper of this species flew around the vessel, not daring to alight. After circling for some minutes near the water it mounted higher and higher until it was flying about the topmast heads. When it had gone off the sailors told me that several of "the same kind" had been standing on the *Daisy's* bowsprit (!) during the morning.

Pisobia maculata (?) August 23, lat. 32° 20' N., long. 50° 35' W. Late in the afternoon a sandpiper was observed. It circled the brig for an hour, without coming very near, and *settled into the water* for several brief rests. Finally, I saw it perch upon our bowsprit, but it left almost immediately. I believe that the bird was a Pectoral Sandpiper, but am not quite positive.

Hirundo erythrogaster. August 17, lat. 31° 31' N., long. 58° 40' W. Four Barn Swallows joined us at noon and perched in the rigging while they preened their feathers thoroughly. At seven in the evening half a dozen were sitting along the royal brace, with others flying pathetically around the brig, evidently puzzled, and doubtless hungry. Next morning, and throughout the day (Aug. 18), several were with us, one of which sat for its photograph within a yard of the camera.

Hirundo rustica. European Barn Swallows twice came on board, the first time on September 15, thirty miles west of St. Antão, C. V. I., and again on September 29, in lat. 8° 16' N., long. 24° 25' W. The former bird was collected.—ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Rare Birds near Waynesburg, Pa.—Waynesburg College recently secured for use in its bird course a small collection of mounted birds taken in this region some fifteen years since. Two specimens among them are particularly interesting in that they have rarely, if ever, been recorded from this section of the State. They are: Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*). The former was collected on Ten Mile Creek and the latter on a farm near Waynesburg, Pa. In the latter part of April, 1907, I captured an injured